

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) An agent purchase method for agent purchase via communication lines comprising the steps of:

a step which, by receiving from the user terminal the specification of the purchased merchandise and the specification of the seller selling said merchandise via communication lines as the supplier of said merchandise, accepts the request for agent purchase of said merchandise;

a step to refer to or update the credit level record of said seller for transactions;

a step to purchase the merchandise requested for agent purchase from said seller and to deliver the merchandise to said user and

a step to manage charging for the agent purchase service provided to said user.

2. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 wherein:

the credit level information about each of said sellers selling the merchandise via communication lines is recorded in the database and

said database is searched for the credit level record of the seller specified as the supplier of said merchandise so that the requested agent purchase is executed only when a sufficiently good credit level is recorded.

3. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 which is

used for provision of the agent purchase service to the users of the Internet connection service rendered by an Internet provider.

4. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 wherein:

said agent purchase is requested

with specification of said seller by specifying the address of the Internet web page of the seller.

5. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 which is

used for provision of the agent purchase service to the users of the Internet connection service by an Internet provider wherein:

said Internet provider charges the users of said Internet connection service to pay the utilization fee of the agent purchase service together with the fee of the Internet connection service and collects these fees together.

6. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 which is

used for provision of the agent purchase service to the users of the Internet connection service by an Internet provider wherein:

said agent purchase service is requested

with specification of said seller by specifying the address of the Internet web page of the seller and

said Internet provider charges the users of said Internet connection service to pay the utilization fee of the agent purchase service together with the fee of the Internet connection service and collects these fees together.

7. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a step to classify said sellers from which the agent purchase is available by the category of the merchandise to be sold and to record such list and

a step to search said list for the seller selling the merchandise requested for agent purchase from the user.

8. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a step to record the credit level information for each of said sellers selling the merchandise via communication lines to a database,

to search said database for the credit level record of said seller specified as the supplier of said merchandise and to

execute the requested agent purchase only when a sufficiently good credit level is recorded,

a step to classify said sellers from which the agent purchase is available by the category of the merchandise to be sold and to record such list and

a step to search said list for the seller selling the merchandise requested for agent purchase from the user.

9. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a step to search said communication lines for the seller selling the merchandise requested for agent purchase from the user,

a step to investigate the transaction credit level of the seller selling the applicable merchandise hit by said search and

a step to execute the agent purchase from the applicable seller when the seller hit by said search has a sufficient credit level.

10. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a step to register the sellers selling the merchandise and

a step to make the information about the merchandise sold by the registered sellers public on communication lines.

11. (original) An agent purchase method according to Claim 1 wherein

the fee of the agent purchase service for the merchandise sold by said registered seller is charged to the applicable seller.

12. (original) An agent purchase method for agent purchasing via communication lines comprising the steps of:

a step to register the sellers selling the merchandise,

a step to open the information about the merchandise sold by the registered sellers on communication lines,

a step to receive request for selling of the merchandise the user desires to purchase from the user terminal,

a step to deliver the applicable merchandise to said user for selling and

a step to manage charging of the applicable merchandise price to said user and charging of the agent purchase service to said seller and

being used for provision of the agent merchandise purchase service to the users of the Internet connection service by an Internet provider.

13-33. (canceled)